

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough search with respect to the present patent application.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 20 is allowable.

Applicant further notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 4-7 and 14-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 2, 4-7 and 14-16 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3, 8-10 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Doerfel et al. ("Doerfel", U.S. Patent No. 4,682,953). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant's claim 1 comprises "emitting a weapon signal from a weapon toward a target area." Doerfel, in contrast, teaches the use of a master station 4, located within a wheeled vehicle 16 and located near the firing location of the weapon 12, that transmits signals to remote actuators 6 (see column 4, line 59 - column 5, line 7). An operator within Doerfel's vehicles 16 responds to firing information computed such as by a soldier 24 giving firing commands to the weapon 12. Thus, unlike applicant's claim 1 and according to Doerfel, the weapon 12 does not emit any weapon signal.

Moreover, applicant respectfully submits that Doerfel teaches use of a computing mechanism 38, such as an IBM compatible PC, for operation (see Fig. 4, and column 9, lines 45-68). Applicant respectfully submits that Doerfel's personal computer is a device separate from the weapon, and, therefore, Doerfel teaches away from a system that emits a weapon signal from the weapon.

Furthermore, and unlike applicant's claim 1, Doerfel does not teach or suggest a system that is adapted to emit a weapon signal *toward* a target area. Instead, the remote actuators 6 of Doerfel receive signals from the master station 6. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to page 3, lines 18-19 of applicant's written specification describing weapon 6 being

provided with a device allowing the emission of firing information into the area visible from the weapon.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that Doerfel does not teach or suggest all of the elements of applicant's claim 1, and, accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Doerfel.

With respect to claim 3, the Examiner states that Doerfel discloses a device comprising a sensor (30, 32, 34) located near the target area 14 and adapted for sensing a weapon signal 28 from a weapon 12 via master station 4. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant respectfully submits that Doerfel does not teach or suggest a signal emitting device at the weapon to emit a weapon signal. Unlike applicant's claim 3, Doerfel's master station 4 communicates electromagnetic waves 28 to remote actuators 30, 32 and 34 (see column 5, lines 8-25). The remote actuators 30, 32 and 34 are not adapted for sensing a weapon signal from a signal emitting device at the weapon. Instead, each remote actuator 30, 32 and 34 includes a radio frequency receiver device 58 that receives control signals from the master station 4 and provides them to a processor/encoder 60 through an interface 62 to generate an actuating signal (see column 6, lines 10-22). Thus, applicant respectfully submits that claim 3 is not anticipated by Doerfel, and, accordingly, claim 3 is allowable over Doerfel.

Claims 8-10 and 17-19 depend directly or indirectly from claim 3, and are, therefore, allowable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features set forth in those claims with the features in the claim(s) from which they depend.

Claims 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Doerfel. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner states that Doerfel discloses all of the claimed subject matter with the exception of explicitly applying a laser communication system between the weapon and the sensor. Accordingly, the Examiner states it would have been obvious to implement a communication system that is appropriate for the environment where training will occur. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As noted above, remote actuators 30, 32 and 34 are not adapted for sensing a weapon signal from a signal emitting device at the weapon. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that an element of applicant's claims 11 and 13, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 3, is

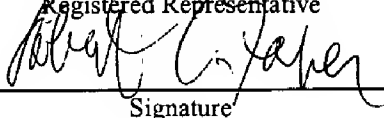
neither taught nor suggest by Doerfel, and, therefore, claims 11 and 13 are allowable over Doerfel.

For the reasons set forth above, claims 1-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

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Robert C. Faber

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative



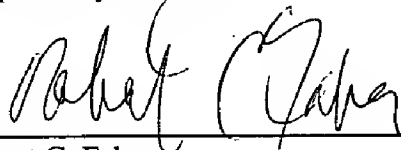
Signature

December 24, 2003

Date of Signature

RCF:JJF

Respectfully submitted,



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